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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

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4. The Kuechensee Bereitschaft, an infantry unit, has in storage a supply of Soviet-made handfire weapons (automatic rifles, machine pistols, water-cooled maxim machine guns) and mortars sufficient to equip all personnel at a moment's notice. The Objekte have been instructed not to issue weapons from such storage supplies until ordered. Only a few weapons are to be used for training purposes. Soviet-niks have been instructed to explain the weapons since there are no training manuals available.

5. Platoon training at the Kuechensee Bereitschaft has advanced to the point where limited attack and defense assignments can be discharged. The Bereitschaft has abandoned German methods of attack against enemy positions; this presumably applies to all infantry Objekte. Penetration (the final attack phase) is no longer accomplished in the last short leap after stalking an enemy position, but is launched at a distance of 150 meters in open assault under cover of a heavy-weapon bell-shaped barrage placed on the position. The disadvantage of this method is that unless fire control is perfectly coordinated the attackers are likely to suffer losses through their own barrage. The advantage lies in the fact that the enemy is forced to stay under cover until the attackers are on top of him. (5)

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6. [redacted] HVA armored units (C-Objekte) are at present fully equipped with T-34 tanks for combat use. However, students in these Objekte are trained in the operation of the T-34. Once their training has been completed they could be issued tanks authorized by the T/E within "two hours". The same applies to artillery.

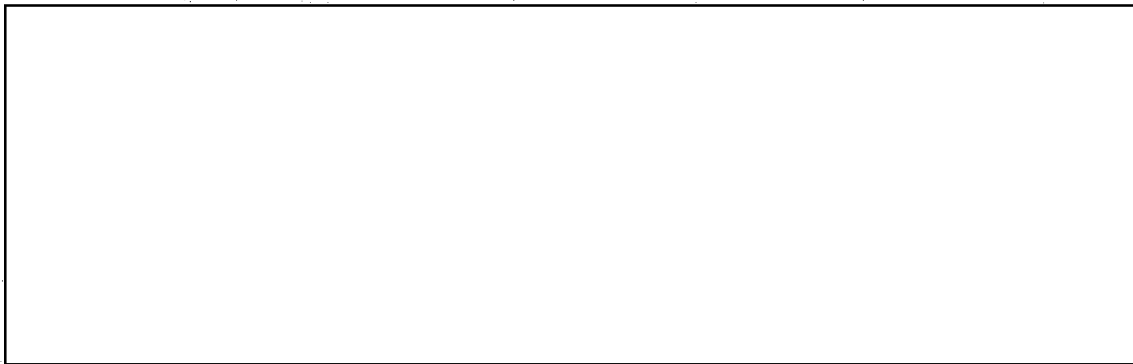
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7. [redacted] roughly ten per cent of the noncoms, sixty per cent of the staff (command and instruction officers) and forty per cent of the P.K. officers of the HVA Objekte have had military training and combat experience. Most of the present noncoms have been selected from the training body while most of the officers were noncoms in the German Army during the war.

8. With regard to the combat readiness of HVA effectives, [redacted] HVA troops under fire will attack enemy positions only if their respect and obedience vis a vis their military superiors outweigh fear of the enemy. The authority of the officers and noncoms in the HVA is as yet insufficient to outbalance this fear.

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- 25X1X (5) [redacted] Comment: This important change in infantry tactics is the result of observation by school and Bereitschaft chiefs of Soviet war games. [redacted]

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